

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended):

1 1. A method for making an overclad optical fiber preform, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 positioning an overclad tube around a preform core rod;
4 heating the overclad tube along the length thereof in such a way that the
5 overclad tube collapses onto the preform core to form the overclad optical fiber
6 preform; and
7 actively adjusting the size of a heated portion of at least one of the
8 preform core rod and the overclad tube to improve [the] matching [thereof] of the
9 radial size of the preform core rod and the overclad tube prior to the collapse of
10 the overclad tube onto the preform core rod.

Claim 2 (Original):

1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting step further
2 comprises varying the size of a heated portion of the preform core rod relative to
3 a corresponding axial position of the overclad tube.

Claim 3 (Original):

1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting step includes
2 increasing the size of the preform core rod by reducing the axial length of at least
3 one first portion of the preform core rod and/or decreasing the size of the preform
4 core rod by increasing the axial length of at least one second portion of the
5 preform core rod.

Claim 4 (Original):

1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting step further
2 comprises varying the size of a heated portion of the overclad tube relative to a
3 corresponding axial position of the preform core rod.

Claim 5 (Original):

- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting step includes
2 increasing the size of the overclad tube by decreasing the axial length of at least
3 one first portion of the overclad tube and/or decreasing the size of the overclad
4 tube by increasing the axial length of at least one second portion of the overclad
5 tube.

Claim 6 (Original):

- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 establishing a pressure gradient between the interior of the overclad tube and the
3 exterior of the overclad tube, wherein the pressure outside the overclad tube is
4 greater than the pressure inside the overclad tube.

Claim 7 (Original):

- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 drawing an optical fiber from the overclad optical fiber preform.

Claim 8 (Original):

- 1 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the drawing step and the
2 heating step are performed using the same heat source.

Claim 9 (Original):

- 1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the positioning step further
2 comprises positioning the overclad tube around the preform core rod in such a
3 way that the overclad tube and the preform core rod are substantially coaxial.

Claim 10 (Currently amended):

- 1 10. A method for making an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:
2 positioning an overclad tube around a preform core rod;

3 establishing a pressure gradient across the overclad tube, wherein the
4 pressure outside the overclad tube is greater than the pressure inside the
5 overclad tube;

6 heating the overclad tube along the length thereof in such a way that the
7 overclad tube collapses onto the preform core to form the overclad optical fiber
8 preform;

9 actively adjusting the size of a heated portion of at least one of the
10 preform core rod and the overclad tube to improve [the] matching [thereof] of the
11 radial size of the preform core rod and the overclad tube prior to the collapse of
12 the overclad tube onto the preform core rod; and

13 drawing the optical fiber from the overclad optical fiber preform.

Claim 11 (Original):

1 11. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the adjusting step
2 includes increasing the size of at least one first heated portion of the preform
3 core rod relative to a corresponding axial position of the overclad tube by
4 applying a compressive force to the preform core rod and/or decreasing the size
5 of at least one second heated portion of the preform core rod relative to a
6 corresponding axial position of the overclad tube by applying a drawing force to
7 the preform core rod.

Claim 12 (Original):

1 12. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the adjusting step
2 includes increasing the size of at least one first heated portion of the overclad
3 tube relative to a corresponding axial position of the preform core rod by applying
4 a compressive force to the overclad tube and/or decreasing the size of at least
5 one second heated portion of the overclad tube relative to a corresponding axial
6 position of the preform core rod by applying a drawing force to the overclad tube.

Claim 13 (Original):

- 1 13. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the drawing step and the
- 2 heating step are performed using the same heat source.

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Cancelled)